

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending June 4, 1881, was:

Monday	138,000	Weekly	85,000
Tuesday	138,000	Weekly	85,000
Wednesday	138,000	Weekly	85,000
Thursday	138,000	Weekly	85,000
Friday	138,000	Weekly	85,000
Saturday	138,000	Weekly	85,000
Total for the week	828,000		505,000

Is the Administration Backing Down?

Can it be that Gen. GARFIELD has determined that the investigation and prosecution of the Star route frauds must not be carried any further?

There will be no trial in the *Tribune* that "there will be no trial in the Star route cases before fall," and also that "the cases will not be presented to the Grand Jury until September."

Mr. DORSEY, one of the chief conspirators and greatest beneficiaries by these frauds, who for some time has been in Washington sitting in the seat of the anxious, has gained new composure. He has gone home to Arkansas in tranquillity. Those things which recently disturbed his mind disturb it no longer.

At the same time we are informed that Mr. JACOB H. ELLA of New Hampshire, hitherto Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, has been made Sixth Auditor in the place of Mr. GREGG, dismissed. In his new office Mr. ELLA will have charge of the business of the Post Office Department. He is a devoted friend and follower of BLAINE and CHANDLER.

These things being so, is there not reason to suppose that the Star route thieves are no longer to be pursued by the virtuous members of the GARFIELD Administration?

Is there not danger that some very important persons, persons far more important than DORSEY or BRADY, might be damaged if a serious prosecution of these public robberies were to be really and vigorously undertaken?

Did Mr. BLAINE come to New York for nothing?

Present a Better Front.

Now is the accepted time for the Democratic party to strengthen itself.

The Republicans are divided; and the two divisions are sorely incensed against each other.

The people are not blind. They clearly perceive things as they are. They see that on the one hand the President has been trying to bribe and bully the Senate; while on the other two Senators have been attempting to usurp certain important constitutional functions belonging to the President.

Under these circumstances, the Legislature proceed to elect two United States Senators in place of the two resigned. And what sort of a front do the Democrats present?

They wantonly trample upon the State Constitution in nominating a candidate therein declared to be ineligible; and, at the same time, a candidate whose strongest recommendation is that he is ineligible!

Is such the way to win over the Democratic party the dissatisfied Republicans and the great body of independent voters?

The Treasury Thieves.

An investigation has been going on in the Treasury Department for the past two weeks, which reveals another phase of the prevailing corruption in the public service, and shows how it has been protected in the past.

Under the present management, a clerk, named O. L. PITNEY, became the general purchasing agent, and the custodian of this property. His accounts were subject to the approval of the chief clerk, then J. K. UPTON, who was promoted by JOHN SHERMAN to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

After UPTON's promotion he retained the authority to approve PITNEY's accounts, and when charges were made against the latter, he protected him in the face of testimony showing fraud. With the power to buy what he pleased in the limits of the appropriation, and practically to verify his own purchases, PITNEY had full swing, and a ring of plunderers was organized inside and outside the department, consisting of officials and of favored contractors. The old story of jobbery, extravagance, and corruption was repeated, and the whole of the appropriations was exhausted in this organized rascality. Cabinetmakers and other mechanics are employed regularly in the department for this branch of the service, and they were utilized in a manner that disgraces members of the late Fraudulent Administration, and strengthened the hands of the thieves.

JOHN SHERMAN has grown to a handsome fortune upon the economies of his salary as a member of Congress and of the Cabinet during twenty-five years. He entered the House of Representatives poor in 1855, and he retired from the Treasury a millionaire in 1881, having in the period between these two extremes no other vocation but politics.

His prosperity seems to have been the result of his position as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the House, and JAY COOK was the manager of the public loans.

Mr. SHERMAN is a large owner of real estate in Washington. A few years ago he had built a block of some forty houses, and last year he indulged himself with a fine mansion, adjoining his former residence, in the fashionable quarter of the capital. With all his wealth, Mr. SHERMAN is a thrifty and penurious person. He knows that money is power, and he never parts from a dollar without getting at least a full equivalent for it.

Mr. SHERMAN found it cheap and convenient to make PITNEY, the head of the purchasing ring of the Treasury, his agent for the collection of rents and attention to his property. PITNEY was too good to hold that relation, and to have it known in the department, because it served as a passport in the accounting offices and silenced the busy tongue of scandal and of envy among subordinates who knew of his dealings.

Thus fortified, PITNEY detailed cabinet-makers and other mechanics to beautify Mr. SHERMAN's new mansion, to do work for Mr. EVANS, and to adorn his own residence, and he urged their time and the material used to different bureaus of the Treasury. Backed by the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary, the latter of whom he certified the accounts and is believed to have shared in the spoils, this custodian of public property and trusted disburser of a contingent fund of the hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars per annum pursued his vocation with the whole term of HAYES.

While the Fraudulent Administration was casting about civil service reform, this sort of thievery was encouraged by the highest officials, who themselves were its beneficiaries. With such examples before them, it was perhaps natural that a number of the subordinates should participate in the common plunder, and utilize the opportunity to increase their incomes.

An inquiry made, as this, by dependents, and without power to get at the bottom facts, must be limited in its scope, and is under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury. It will probably result in the removal of some of the inculcated clerks, while their superiors, who are responsible to the country, will be allowed to escape, unless Congress shall pursue the investigation with a resolute purpose.

It should also be known that Mr. SHERMAN is anxious for a precedent which does not help his reputation. While travelling over the country, he charged his personal expenses to the fund appropriated for collection of the revenue. No former Secretary used public money in that way, even when engaged on official duty. The example was infectious, and Mr. EVANS found the practice useful and economical in his department.

The more closely the conduct of the Fraudulent Administration is scrutinized, the more infamous it appears. Even the White House was stripped of its portable equipment in the expiring hours of Hayesism.

A Strange Disease in Italy.

Nothing more painfully impresses travelers in northern Italy than the ravages of the curious disease known as the *pellagra* among the rural population. The existence of this scourge, and its rapid propagation under the new régime, are phenomena of the gravest social and economical significance.

Modern science has detected traces of this malady in certain rural districts of southern France and Spain, and of Roumania; but it is only in northern Italy that the disease has acquired the proportions of a national calamity. It is precisely the garden of Italy, or those provinces of Lombardy which are the richest, and seem to be a careless eye most civilized, which are most deeply infected with this malady. In the province of Brescia, for example, the victims of the *pellagra* are more than eight per cent. of the rural population, while in the farming districts of Padua, Piacenza, and Ferrara they constitute from five to six per cent.

The earliest symptoms of this disease are an itching and redness in the hands and feet. These are rapidly followed by the disappearance of all adipose matter, the angular parts of the person becoming markedly prominent. The skin now grows abnormally thin, wrinkled, dark yellow and often blackish in color, and is covered with scales to a greater or lesser degree. The general atrophy is soon visible in the muscular tissues; the pulse becomes more and more rapid, thready, and evanescent; the temperature declines, the nails grow into the flesh, all the movements of the body are slow and languid, and the power of sensation is so far diminished as to allow of the introduction of a needle without the patient perceiving it. A tendency to suicide is a characteristic of the disease, and the disturbance of the intellectual faculties frequently culminates in insanity. The sufferers from an advanced degree of the attack and its issue in madness or death, they are incapable of labor and are compelled to become beggars.

The Italian Consul at Galatz, reporting conditions of *pellagra* in Roumania, declared it to be the general opinion in that country that the appearance of the disease was contemporaneous with the introduction of Indian corn. There is ground, also, for believing that in Italy the spread of the disease coincided with the extension of maize cultivation on a large scale, which is a thing of relatively recent origin. There seems to be, indeed, no doubt that the malady attacks only the very poor and underfed, and prevails chiefly among those whose food consists almost exclusively of damaged maize.

No one, of course, disputes that sound and well-ripened corn is a healthful aliment, or that even when in a deteriorated condition it may be safely eaten, if a little fish or milk, or a small quantity of green vegetables, is habitually added to the diet. Indeed, experience has shown that a daily ration of beef and wine, administered to the patient in the early stages of the disease, is quite sufficient to exterminate the malady.

That the disease is produced by an exclusive use of maize in a deteriorated condition seems to be proved conclusively by a report of the Italian Minister of Commerce. It is shown that in many instances Indian corn does not fully and properly ripen in the north of Italy, while in the south, where *pellagra* is unknown, it ripens perfectly. We are told, too, that even when the grain has been harvested fully ripe, it is often stored up damp, or so badly protected as to become damp from subsequent wetting. Moreover, inquiries into the condition of the Lombardian peasant have made it clear that, although he should take good grain to the mill, he is almost certain to receive back flour made of damaged corn. This fraud, indeed, would appear to be a recognized source of the miller's profits. Now, the wages of the rural cultivator in Lombardy are so low—being on an average not more than eighteen cents a day, out of which he has to pay his employers six dollars for the wretched hovel he inhabits—that he is simply unable to add anything to his diet of bad corn meal. He takes this tainted flour and mixes with water a sufficient quantity to last his family for eight days. This dough he divides into loaves of an immense size, and puts them into an oven, insufficiently heated, withdrawing them, after a very inadequate time, burned on the outside, and wet and nearly raw within. In two or three days this nauseous mass becomes acid and mouldy, but although the pigs refuse it, the peasants are constrained to swallow the only food at their command. In towns, on the other hand, where other kinds of food are as cheap as maize, *pellagra* does not exist; and even persons affected with the disease who emigrate to cities, although they may dwell there in a condition of great misery, have been known to recover solely by means of their change of residence. No wonder that a constant tendency is observed in Lombardy on the part of the most wretched of the rural poor to throng into the towns.

These combined facts have led to the conclusion that the mould developed by Indian corn (and perhaps by certain other grains) during the process of fermentation from dampness, contains a specific poison which produces *pellagra* in those who exclusively consume it. It is true enough that this poison, like many others, though fatal to a weakened, exhausted organism, is powerless against a vigorous and healthy one. Here it is worth noting that before the consolidation of Italy, the Lombardian peasant could always add something to his diet of corn meal; and it is since that date that the malady has made most

rapid progress. Under the Austrian régime, when taxation was much lower, the laborer not only received gratuitously the dwelling and garden which he now has to hire, but he had given to him during the winter, besides his wages, a fixed daily quantity of soup and bread, which during summer was supplemented by a second meal that included salad. All these allowances of food have been suppressed without compensation of any kind, and the increased rate of wages remarked in some districts is by no means commensurate to the rise in the price of the necessities of life. If reproached with the sufferings of the laborers, the landowners reply that they have equal reason to regret the change of government. The lands in the valley of the Po, although they are among the richest in Europe, cannot now be made to yield more than four per cent. on the capital invested, for the reason that the taxes on real property in Lombardy amount to about fifty per cent. of the annual returns. Southern Italy, on the other hand, from which section come the larger proportion of the Radical Deputies, is much more lightly taxed, and this inequality in taxation means overfeeding and disease to the peasant of the north. Thus we see that, in order that Italy may exhibit a powerful army to the world, the population of its richest provinces is, to quote the language of the official report, morally reduced to the condition of brutes, and physically ruined by the inhuman severity of its labor, by its detestable food, and by the shameful condition of its dwellings.

A Very Doubtful Measure.

The bill for the removal of the Forty-second street reservoir has passed both Houses of the Legislature, and is now in the hands of Gov. CORNELL. It is a measure which has been strenuously pushed by Senator ASTOR, whose anxiety for its passage has not been unreasonably censured because it was believed to be prompted by a desire to further the landed interests of his family.

Senator ASTOR, however, may have been governed by other considerations, and may have been influenced by older men who started the project, and who have for years been arguing that the reservoir was no longer of any use, and ought to be removed as an unsightly structure on our most elegant thoroughfare. They would have the ground it occupies added to the little park which extends from its western side to the Sixth avenue. It is advisable to tear down the Forty-second street reservoir, especially at this time, and it is true that it is unnecessary?

That reservoir gives storage for upward of twenty-five million gallons of water. It is situated well down in the city, and if properly used will give a head of water to thousands of houses which are now suffering from the lack of it. It is true that it has not always of late performed great service. But has it not been purposely managed so as to make it seem to be useless?

And has not the attempt to diminish its importance been made with a view to encouraging the project for the removal of the reservoir? Certainly there is reason for supposing that such is the case. Undoubtedly there is a strong party of real estate owners and others who are determined to get rid of the reservoir, and who have easily convinced themselves that it is not needed; that it unnecessarily defaces the beauty of the fashionable neighborhood in which it is situated. Even the Comptroller, we believe, is anxious to see it torn down.

But the removal of the Forty-second street reservoir is a very serious matter. For one thing, the health of the vicinity would be pretty sure to suffer from the tearing down of a structure saturated with water would have to be dug into; the aqueous sediment which has been accumulating during the many years the reservoir has been in use would be disturbed; and it would be surprising if the whole neighborhood did not in consequence become infected with the poison of malaria. It is a very dangerous business to remove a structure of that kind when it is situated in the midst of a populous city. Its destruction might rather hurt than help property in its vicinity, at least temporarily. If the work was undertaken, Murray Hill might soon get an evil name as a region blighted by malaria.

Moreover, the whole question of our water supply is now under examination. It has been made manifest that something must be done to increase the quantity of water upon which the city can rely at all seasons. We need a greater head, a larger flow, and improved facilities for distribution. When that problem has been settled, the hydraulic engineers will be able to decide whether the Forty-second street reservoir is or is not a necessary part of the means for furnishing the city with the water it requires.

If the reservoir is to be removed, therefore, now is not the time for undertaking the work. Let us wait until it has been absolutely proved that it is not necessary before we attempt tearing the costly structure down. Gov. CORNELL, we are sure, would not be advised by the majority of those best acquainted with our water supply to sign the present bill.

Everything Growing Finely.

The rains of late have been so frequent and abundant that vegetation was never fresher and richer at the opening of summer than now. Fields and forests are in their most beautiful garb, and every growing thing gives evidences of health and strong vitality. The spring may not have been early in its coming, but once it came, favorable weather soon brought forward the crops, and now they are well advanced for the season.

The outlook for the hay crop could not be more encouraging. The grass has been fed by the plentiful rains, and is everywhere in fine condition, for from all parts of the country we get reports of showers and a rainfall more than usually heavy for spring and early summer. In some of the Western States, indeed, complaint is made that the copious rains have delayed planting, already behindhand because of the lateness of the season.

It is dangerous to trust the crop reports which come to us in June and July. Gambling in grain is now carried on so widely and enormously that all sorts of stories are manufactured for the purpose of affecting prices in the interest of the operators in Chicago and New York. Every year at this time we hear gloomy predictions as to the harvest. Minor calamities which have befallen a single district are magnified into widespread disasters, and the attempt is made to produce the impression that the crops must of necessity be diminished in consequence. Such stories are circulation now; but, taking the country as a whole, every competent observer must be satisfied that the season so far has been favorable for agriculture. We have had no drought like that which caused the farmers so great alarm at this time last year, when the young grass began to turn brown. The insect enemies of vegetation are not working for so much harm as usual. The weather for a month has been of a kind to promote healthy growth.

It is reported, however, that a smaller

acresage has been sown in spring wheat than last year, and that the crop of winter wheat will be less by a third. When the harvest is measured we shall see whether it is so. Corn has certainly been planted to a greater extent than in 1880, and of the other grains we get hopeful accounts. The season has opened happily for the farmers beyond a question, and they have every reason to expect a prosperous year.

The small fruits never looked better in June than they do now throughout the States which furnish New York with its supply. Strawberries are abundant and cheap and of an exceptionally good quality. The early vegetables, too, have flourished exceedingly during the last few weeks, and the market gardeners have no reason for complaining of the present yield or of the prospects for the future. The very healthy condition of all vegetation is especially noticeable this year.

A Triple Presidency.

It was a favorite idea with JOHN C. CARROLL, when he had nearly lost hope of preserving the slave power in any other way, to change the Constitution of the United States so as to have a dual executive—two Presidents at one time.

Mr. CARROLL, although he does not advocate any form of amendment of the Constitution, attempts, practically, to change the single executive, so far as concerns the making of nominations, into a triple executive, composed of the President and two United States Senators. He insists that when a nomination is to be made to fill vacancies, or to supersede officers in a certain State, the two Senators from that State should be consulted before the nomination is made.

Of course, there would be no meaning to this step unless it was carried further, and in case the Senators should disapprove of the proposed nomination, then the nomination should not be made. In an executive with three heads there would constitute a majority, so that, in effect, the power of the President in making nominations would be reduced to precisely what that of the Vice-President now is in the Senate; that is to say, it would be a cipher except in the event of a tie. Or, in other words, the President would be substantially deprived of one of the most important functions conferred upon him by the Constitution.

The circumstance that two of the trio constituting the executive would be constantly shifting from State to State, as the places for the appointments vary, does not constitute any recommendation to the measure.

Mr. HAYES has recently given his opinion of BOSCH CONKLING, Mr. CONKLING's opinion of the President, and the opinion of the President of the present struggle among New York Republicans. The Administration represents the other. Mr. HAYES doesn't want an office; why shouldn't he? He doesn't want an office; why shouldn't he? He doesn't want an office; why shouldn't he?

The principal celestial event of the week will be the total eclipse of the moon on next Saturday night, or rather Sunday morning, as the eclipse does not begin in this city until midnight. The slow advance of the earth's shadow over the moon, until it completely extinguishes her brilliant satellite, and then the gradual reappearance of the shining disk, will be a sight worth the loss of a hour's sleep.

Such an eclipse is of comparatively little value to astronomers, but it is always a wonderful spectacle, besides being a clear illustration of some of the fundamental truths of Copernican astronomy.

The means of an electrical indicator, recently invented abroad, the water level in any boiler may be ascertained at any distance from the latter. This useful apparatus consists of an indicating tablet, constructed in such a manner that it will show the level of the water in the boiler, and connected with the electric indicator, which is fixed at the top of a vertical tube above the boiler. Wires and platinum plates are so arranged that when the water in the boiler sinks to a certain point an electric current is established which rings a signal, while at the same time the sign "low water" appears on the indicating tablet—thus conveniently insuring against danger.

What the Word Actually Is—The Creed of a New Church.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—My former articles were written with the intent of showing that the ground is cut from under the feet of sectarians who build on dogma by the revised New Testament. To those who have read them, it is not necessary to say that those who hold the popular beliefs to be untenable because not proved, I offer the creed of a new church which is the result of a study of the Bible, and which is the only one that is not based on dogma.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The members of the Retail Clothing Salesmen's Early Closing Association regret that, while the newspapers have been uniformly kind in giving notice of our meetings, they have drawn no distinctive line between the strikes of the retail clothing salesmen and the strikes of the laboring men. It is our intention to draw a line between the two, and to show that the retail clothing salesmen are not laboring men, but are a distinct class, and that their strike is not a labor strike, but a strike of a distinct class.

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WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

The discussion in the French Chamber of Deputies with respect to the proposed change in the law regulating the manner of voting for members of the Assembly assumed such an important character that Gambetta took the unusual course of leaving the Chamber to attend the debate. The object of the new project is to do away with the present system of voting by *arrondissement*, which are equivalent to our wards, and to substitute therefor the *scrutin de liste*, a method by which it is hoped to extinguish the French equivalent for our ward politician. Paris is now divided into twenty *arrondissements*, each of which returns one Deputy to the Chamber. The result is that each *arrondissement* has a member of the Chamber, and that the members of the Chamber are the representatives of the *arrondissements*, which are equivalent to our wards, and to substitute therefor the *scrutin de liste*, a method by which it is hoped to extinguish the French equivalent for our ward politician.

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finds himself powerless, and has accordingly threatened to abandon the splendors of his throne, unless the useless Constitution is thrown into the fire. Silly enthusiasts have long been vigorously propounding the idea that popular representation is a panacea for all political ills. They said that the Bulgars were eminently fitted for self-government, that as Christians they ought to be freed from Turkish rule. Great results were prophesied from the establishment of Bulgarian autonomy. That the event has grossly disappointed these philanthropic idiots, there can be no doubt. It is the obvious intermediary, and the result is the obvious intermediary, and the result is the obvious intermediary.

Two very important contributions have recently been made to the science of locomotion. Near Berlin Messrs. Siemens and Halske have placed in operation an electric railway. They at first meant to construct a road similar to our elevated roads in Berlin, but the authorities would not allow any experiments of that nature to be made in their city, and the inventors had to go outside the city limits to put their new motive power into operation. Its pronounced success has already attracted the attention of the public, and it is expected that the road will be extended to other parts of the country.

The other experiment was made near London, and was a trial of compressed air as a motive power. Compressed air engines are far from being a recent discovery, but they have not hitherto been found practically useful. Col. Beaumont has, however, succeeded in perfecting the machinery, and a fair trial of the compressed air engine is now being made. The importance of this to the horse car companies in England may be estimated from the fact that they cover twenty-three millions of miles in the course of a year, and that horse power costs about fourteen cents a mile. Col. Beaumont will contract to provide power for twelve cents a mile, thus saving the companies \$400,000 per annum. The engine, of course, noiseless and smokeless, and does not drop hot water and grease. It would, therefore, seem to be well adapted for our elevated roads.

The annual meeting of the English People's Society was addressed by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the champion of the testators. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the question of the abolition of the army, and it advocates the abolition of the army, although it does not seem to have returned its attention to the navy, and the arguments, but their turn will come in time, and the arguments will be taken to include both. Sir Wilfrid applied himself to the task of explaining how her Majesty's forces could be abolished, and the plan he suggested was the complete abolition of the army, and the complete abolition of the army, and the complete abolition of the army.

A young American named Bishop, who is well known in New York by his exposure of spiritualism, has met with much success in London. He has been lecturing on the subject of spiritualism, and has been very successful. He has been lecturing on the subject of spiritualism, and has been very successful. He has been lecturing on the subject of spiritualism, and has been very successful.

The struggle of the three languages at the German court is still continuing, and the chances are that French will be ultimately driven out of use in Germany. According to the *Algemeine Zeitung*:

Contrary to the old habit, the best society makes use of the German language in the presence of foreigners who are not familiar with German. This is a very good thing, and it is a very good thing. This is a very good thing, and it is a very good thing. This is a very good thing, and it is a very good thing.

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